

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 1, 3, 5, 6, 8-17 and 19-23. Claims 2 and 7, which the Examiner indicated contained allowance subject matter, have been rewritten in independent form by amending claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2 and by rewriting claim 7 in independent form as new claim 23 (including claim 3 on which claim 7 depended). Accordingly, claims 2 and 7 have been canceled and claims 19-21 have been amended to depend on claim 1 as amended. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wagner. Claims 3, 5, 6, and 8-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wagner. The Examiner indicated, however, that claims "2, 7 and 19-22" (presumably 2, 7 and 19-21) contained allowable subject matter and will be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

In response, without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection and in order to expedite this case, Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2, has rewritten claim 7 in independent form as new claim 23 (including claim 3 on which claim 7 depended), has amended claims 19-21 to depend on claim 1 as amended and has canceled claims 2 and 7. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended, together with claims 3, 5, 6, 8-17 and 19-22 which depend directly or indirectly on claim 1 as amended, are now in condition for allowance.

In summary, claims 2 and 7 have been canceled, claims and 19-21 have been amended and new claim 23 has been added. In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the final action and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Hermann SCHWELLING

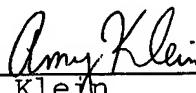


Frederick J. Dorchak, Reg. No. 29,298
Edward R. Freedman, Reg. No. 26,048
Attorneys for Applicant

COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 365-9802

FJD:cmm

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Amy Klein
Amy Klein

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